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March 31, 2004



**BY ELECTRONIC FILING**

Marlene H. Dortch, Esquire  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re:   *Ex Parte* Communication  
CS Docket No. 97-80 and PP Docket No. 00-67**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Dell, Inc. (Dell) endorses in its entirety the positions taken by Microsoft Corporation, Hewlett-Packard Corporation, and Apple Computer, Inc. in their Comments on Petitions for Reconsideration filed on March 10, 2004 ("Comments") in the above-referenced proceeding.

Dell believes, as expressed in the Comments, that developing a self-certification regime for Unidirectional Digital Cable Products ("UDCP") is in the best interests of establishing a dynamically competitive retail UDCP market. If the Commission determines that a mandatory third-party testing and certification scheme is necessary it should ensure that such a testing program is transparent and neutral by adopting the four requirements the Comments proposed to apply to CableLabs. Finally, as asserted in the Comments, DirecTV's proposal to impose encoding rules for multichannel programming systems on all digital content distribution systems, including the Internet, is legally suspect from a jurisdictional point of view; it also would stifle the development of the Internet and other digital content distribution technologies without offering any countervailing benefits.

As required by Section 1.1206(b), as modified by the policies applicable to electronic filings, one copy of this letter is being submitted for each of the above-referenced dockets.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Beutel, Esq.  
Director, Government Relations